## **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1. In a system comprising a user and a vendor coupled by a communication system, a method for performing an electronic transaction between the user and the vendor, comprising:
- establishing by a user an order list including at least one item to be obtained from the vendor;

submitting the order list to the vendor over the communication system;

receiving the list by the vendor;

making the list available to the user through a real-time connection with the vendor;

establishing a real-time connection between the user and the vendor; and

enabling the user to review and approve the order list during the real-time connection.

2. The method of claim 1, further including identifying by the vendor the user who sent the order list and associating the order list with the user.

- 3. The method of claim 1, further including enabling the user to modify the order list during the real-time connection and prior to approving the list.
- 4. The method of claim 1, further including sending the order list tothe vendor using e-mail.
  - 5. The method of claim 4, further including establishing the realtime connection using a browser.
  - 6. The method of claim 1, further including establishing the realtime connection using a browser.
  - 7. The method of claim 1, further including using the Internet as the communication system.
  - 8. In a system comprising a user and a vendor coupled by a communication system, a method for performing an electronic transaction between the user and the vendor, comprising:
- establishing by a user an order list including at least one item to be obtained from the vendor;

submitting the order list to the vendor over the communication system;

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receiving by the user a confirmation of the order list sent by the vendor;

editing the confirmation of the order list by the user to create a modified order list;

sending the modified confirmation order list to the vendor;

making the modified confirmation list available to the user through a real-time connection with the vendor;

establishing a real-time connection between the user and the vendor; and

enabling the user to approve the order list during the real-time connection;

- 9. The method of claim 8, further including identifying by the vendor the user who sent the order list and associating the list with the user.
- 10. The method of claim 8, further including enabling the user tomodify the order list during the real-time connection and prior to approving the list.
  - 11. The method of claim 8, further including sending the order list to the vendor using e-mail.

- 12. The method of claim 11, further including establishing the realtime connection using a browser.
- 13. The method of claim 8, further including establishing the real-time connection using a browser.
- 5 14. The method of claim 8, further including using the Internet as the communication system.
  - 15. In a system comprising a user and a vendor coupled by a communication system, a method for performing an electronic transaction between the user and the vendor, comprising:
- sending a proposed order list by a vendor to a user;
  using the proposed order list by the user to create an order list;
  submitting the order list to the vendor over the communication
  system;

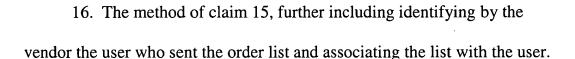
making the order list available to the user through a real-time

15. connection with the vendor;

establishing a real-time connection between the user and the vendor; and

enabling the user to review and approve the order list during the real-time connection;

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- 17. The method of claim 15, further including enabling the user to modify the order list during the real-time connection and prior to approving the list.
- 18. The method of claim 15, further including sending the order list to the vendor using e-mail.
- 19. The method of claim 18, further including establishing the realtime connection using a browser.
- 20. The method of claim 15, further including establishing the real-time connection using a browser.
- 21. The method of claim 15, further including using the Internet as the communication system.
- 22. In a system comprising a user and a vendor coupled by a
  communication system, a method for performing an electronic transaction between the user and the vendor, comprising:

establishing by a user a list including at least one item to be obtained from the vendor;

submitting the list to the vendor over the communication system; receiving the list by the vendor;

parsing the list to extract an order for the vendor;

making the order available to the user through a real-time

5 connection with the vendor;

establishing a real-time connection between the user and the vendor; and

enabling the user to review and approve the order during the realtime connection.

- 23. The method of claim 22, further including enabling the user to modify the order during the real-time connection and prior to approving the order.
- 24. The method of claim 22, further including using an automated process to parse the list.
- 15 25. The method of claim 22, wherein the communications system is the Internet, and further including using e-mail to submit the list to the vendor and using a browser to establish the real-time connection.
  - 26. The method of claim 24, wherein parsing the list includes scanning the list for delimiters indicating order entries in the list.

27. In a system comprising a user and a vendor coupled by a communication system, a method for performing an electronic transaction between the user and the vendor, comprising:

establishing by a user an order list including at least one item to be

obtained from the vendor;

establishing a real-time connection between the user and the vendor; uploading by the user the order list to the vendor; receiving the uploaded order list by the vendor;

making the uploaded order list available to the user through a real-10 time connection;

enabling the user to review and approve the uploaded order list during the real-time connection.

28. The method of claim 27, further including enabling the user to modify the uploaded order list during the real-time connection.